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Reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Expedited Procedure Examining Group 1713

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Georges Marcel Victor Thielen, et al.)
For: SILICA FILLED MULTI-)
VISCOELASTIC RESPONSE)
RUBBER)
Serial No.: 10/084,890)
Filed: February 27, 2002)

Docket No. DN2001057
Confirmation No. 8170
Art Unit: 1713
Examiner: Lee, Rip A.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 1, 2004.

Jacalyn Kelly 3-1-04
(Jacalyn Kelly) (Date of Signature)

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2003, Applicants respond as follows.

Remarks

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin et al., EP 0 942 042 (Colvin EP '042), or in the alternative over Colvin EP '042 in view of Zanzig et al., U.S. 5,614,580 (Zanzig '580) or Agostini et al., U.S. 5,674,932 (Agostini '932). These rejections are traversed.

Applicants reiterate the arguments made previously with regard to this rejection, and maintain that no prima facie case of obviousness exists.

Applicants again urge that even if prima facie obviousness did exist, the present claims are made non-obvious by the unexpected results illustrated in the present specification as filed. The Examiner suggests that the argument relating to the unexpected results is not clear. As suggested, Applicants provide further elucidation of this evidence of nonobviousness.